

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 02807 101429Z

12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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P 101140Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5292

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2807

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SP

SUBJ: US-SPANISH TREATY

1. WHEN I SAW FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA MORNING APRIL 10, HE INQUIRED AS TO WHY THE NEW YORK TIMES HAD LODGED AN ALL-OUT ATTACK ON THE TREATY. I REPLIED THAT I COULD ONLY SPECULATE THAT THIS WAS IN KEEPING WITH THE LONG TRADITION OF THE NEW YORK TIMES OPPOSING THE FRANCO REGIME WHICH IT REGARDS AS SIMPLY BEING CONTINUED AT THE PRESENT TIME. I SAID I PERSONALLY DOUBTED WHETHER THE NEW YORK TIMES WOULD GREATLY INFLUENCE THE ATTITUDE OF SENATORS, BUT I DID POINT OUT THAT SOME OF THE RECENT EVENTS IN SPAIN, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE OPPOSITION, WERE PROBABLY CAUSING SOME SENATORS TO REEXAMINE THEIR ATTITUDES.

2. AT THE SAME TIM, I TOLD AREILZA THAT WE BELIEVED THE PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS NOW BEING CONSIDERED IN THE CONGRES WERE MANAGEABLE AND THAT WE REMAINED CONFIDENT THAT THE TREATY WOULD BE RATIFIED. I SAID THAT I HAD NO INFORMATION AS TO THE TIMING, ALTHOUGH WE CONTINUED TO HOPE THAT FINAL ACTION WULD COME IN MAY, BUT THERE WAS NO CERTAINTY.

3. AREILZA SAID THAT NO ACTION ON THE TREATY WOULD BE TAKEN BY THE CORTES UNTIL IT WAS CLEAR THAT APPROVAL BY THE SENATE WAS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE. HE BELIEVED THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE
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PAGE 02 MADRID 02807 101429Z

TO START THE CORTES PROCESS BEFORE, AS HE WISHED TO AVOID

CRITICISMS THT WOULD SURELY COME FROM SOME QUARTERS ON THE
RIGHT.
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Message Attributes

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